

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 02547 271202Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4701

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CDES

SUBJ: DEATH CASE: FRANCIS GLEN TEOFANI

1. JULY 25 CONTACTS BETWEEN J.J. ARMES AND THE CHADIANS WERE DELAYED WHEN ONE OFFICIAL AT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE STATED THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCORD THEM ACCESS TO THE PERSONS NOW IN DETENTION. SITUATION WAS REPORTEDLY RECTIFIED JULY 26 BUT HIT ANOTHER SNAG WHEN THE PROCURER GENERAL MAINTAINED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE MINISTRY FROM PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS. WE ARE QUIETLY SEEKING INTERCESSION OF VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AS WAY TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO PRISONERS MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED AT THIS STAGE THAT ARMES AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE A DIFFICULT GROUP AT BEST AND ARE RAPIDLY ANTAGONIZING ALMOST EVERYONE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE COME IN CONTACT. THEY USE TRADITIONAL INTERROGATION METHODS OF ALTERNATING BETWEEN QUIET, REASONABLE APPROACH OF ARMES AND ANTAGONISTIC NEEDLING BY HIS PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATE, MR. LATNER. THE LATTER FREQUENTLY RESORTS TO VEILED THREATS, HALF-TRUTHS, AND INNUENDOS IN ATTEMPTING TO ELICIT INFORMATION. FOR INSTANCE, IN INITIAL

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REPORTS OF THEIR CONVERSATION WITH THE POLICE YESTERDAY, THEY STATED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A LOCAL DOCTOR WHO THEY WISHED TO INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE U.S. VICE CONSUL NOT TO COOPERATE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT TRUE. CONVERSATIONS IN QUESTION WERE CARRIED OUT THROUGH EMBASSY INTERPRETER (MEMBERS OF ARMES' PARTY WHO

PURPORTS TO BE INTERPRETER SPEAKS LITTLE FRENCH).
INTERPRETER HAS CONFIRMED THAT U.S. VICE CONSUL
WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE CONVERSATION. WHEN I BROUGHT
THIS TO ARMES' ATTENTION THIS MORNING HE
WAS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT AND BEGAN TO WAFFLE ON THE
ACCUSATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT COOPERATION OF THE
EMBASSY HAD BEEN WONDERFUL. I SAID THIS IS EXACTLY
OUR GOAL. DESPITE HIS ASSURANCES, I AM SURE THAT IF
THE INVESTIGATIONS TURNS OUT UNSATISFACTORILY, LACK
OF COOPERATION BY THE CHADIANS AND POSSIBLY THE
EMBASSY WILL BE CITED AS THE REASONS. ACCORDINGLY,
WE ARE THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTING ALL OUR ACTIONS
IN THIS CASE. WISH TO STRESS THAT WE WILL CONTINUE
TO ACCORD MR. ARMES EVERY POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION,
DESPITE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

3. ARMES AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE NOW INTERESTED
IN CASE OF AMCIT, EUGENE CARL MYERS, WHO WAS PILOT
WITH CONOCO SUBCONTRACTOR PETTY RAY AND WHO
SUFFERED APPARENT SERIES FATAL STROKES ON 29 SEPT
1976. DOCTOR HAS SAID PROGRESSION OF STROKES QUOTE
UNUSUAL UNQUOTE AND ARMES NOW HYPOTHESIZING
POSSIBLE POISONING FOR UNKNOWN REASONS. IN THIS
CONNECTION, DURING FIRST CONVERSATION BETWEEN
EMBASSY OFFICERS MALCOMSON AND LANG, MESSRS,,LACMES AND LATNER
SAID THE DECEASED'S FATHER SUSPECTS
SON WAS WORKING FOR CIA COVER FIRM ENGAGED IN
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FERRY ARMS AND BELS TO THE TIBESTI MOUNTAINS,
AND THAT SON'S DEATH WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY SAID
FIRM FOR REASONS UNKNOWN. ARMES SAID HE DID NOT
BELIEVE THIS THEORY, BUT LATNER HAS BEEN PUSHING
HARD TO ELICIT INFORMATION ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY/
DEFENSE/INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN CHAD. BRADFORD

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